

Docket No.: 50212-132



Argu.
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Tetsufumi TSUZAKI, et al.

Serial No.: 09/667,576

Filed: September 22, 2000

For: OPTICAL AMPLIFIER AND OPTICAL AMPLIFICATION METHOD

Group Art Unit: 3662

Examiner: S. Cunningham

Cofor
2-28-02

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

The following remarks are submitted in response to the Office Action dated October 18, 2001.

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 27 are pending in this application. All claims stand under rejection. A Request for extension of one month for the period of response, with appropriate fee charge authorization, is filed herewith in a separate paper.

Claims 1 through 3, 5, 6 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent 6,023,366 (hereinafter "Kinoshita") in view of the publication entitled "Broadband Variable Optical Attenuator in Silica Waveguide Technology" (hereinafter "Clapp"). The rejection is set forth at paragraph 1 of the Office Action but does not identify specifically which Kinoshita reference is being relied upon.